

CLAIMS

1. A rare earth magnet that has a magnet body containing a rare earth element and a protective film disposed on the magnet body,

5 the protective film comprising, sequentially from the side of the magnet body,

 a first protective film that is in a polycrystalline state,

 a second protective film that is in a polycrystalline state and has a larger mean crystal grain size than that of the first protective film, and

10 a third protective film that is in a polycrystalline state and has a smaller mean crystal grain size than that of the second protective film.

2. The rare earth magnet according to claim 1, wherein the first protective film has a mean crystal grain size of 0.5 μm or less.

15

3. The rare earth magnet according to claim 1, wherein the second protective film is in a columnar crystal state.

4. The rare earth magnet according to claim 1, wherein the first, 20 second and third protective films are composed of metal containing nickel or nickel alloy, respectively.

5. The rare earth magnet according to claim 1, wherein each of the mean crystal grain sizes of the first and third protective films is smaller than 25 that of the second protective film.